markets. The IMF have advised its member countries to undertake appropriate energy policy actions^ This is understood to mean a movement of domestic energy prices toward international levels.

Economic Pact between India, Vietnam and U.S.S.R.

75. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE;

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether he made a three day official visit to Vietnam;

(b) if so, whether this paved the way to a tripartite economic pact between India, Vietnam and USSR; and

(c) what follow-up action if any, has since been taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) The former Commerce Minister made an official visit to Vietnam in September, 1990.

(b) and (c) The question of tripartite economic co-operation between India, Vietnam and USSR will be decided on a case-to-case basis keeping in view the overall financial implications and other aspects. No such detailed proposals have, however, been received so far.

Debt Relief Scheme for Fanners

76. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA KANT BHANDARE; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, in response to requests from State Governments, liberalised further the debt relief scheme for farmers;

(b) if so, what is the revised scheme and what additional concession or relief is sought to be given thereunder; and

(c) how many farmers have so far been given debt relief, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Since the announcement of the original debt relief scheme on 15th May, 1990, relaxations have been made in respect of the following:—

((i) The eligibility criterion for providing debt relief was made applicable to all the borrowers irrespective of the seize. of their loans.

(ii) Fishermen are eligible for debt relief irrespective of the location of their activity. Fishing both marine and inland have been included in the scheme.

(iii) Where the Annewari certificates have not been issued by states, certificates issued in the past for the year of calamity by the State Government may b_e accepted.

(c) The State-wise progress of debt relief scheme as on 17-12-1990 in respect of public Sector banks and Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks is given in Annexure. (See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 1)

Iron ore Reserves in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh

77. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI;

KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) the period upto which the iron ore reserves of Bailadila mines in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh are likely to last;

(b) the quantity of iron ore extracted therefrom upto 30th November, 1990;

(c) whether Government propose to set up the seventy steel plant in Bastar district on the principle of locating production centres nearest to places where raw material is available; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?